GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2014
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Losing of Jobs by Automation
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla;Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of World Bank report wherein it has been said that technology/automation could fundamentally disrupt the pattern of traditional economic path in developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the introduction of automation/robot technique poses a threat to about 69 percent jobs in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the preventive steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): According to the World Development Report (WDR) 2016 of World Bank based on technological feasibility, 69% of jobs in India are susceptible to automation.

Employment generation has been one of the most important priorities of the Government. Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations.

For skilling to provide employment, a new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been established to coordinate the skill activities across Ministries. In order to improve the employability of youth, around 20 Ministries run skill development schemes across 70 sectors.

Further, to assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India in selected labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors namely textiles including apparels, metals, gems & jewellery, automobiles, transport, IT/BPO, leather and handloom/power loom, Labour Bureau under Ministry of Labour & Employment is also conducting Quick Quarterly Surveys on employment and unemployment in selected labour intensive and export oriented sectors. Twenty eight such surveys have been conducted by Labour Bureau so far. According to the survey results, overall estimated employment in these selected sectors has experienced a net addition of 38.81 lakh jobs starting from the first survey (October, 2008 to December, 2008) till the 28th Survey (Oct., 2015 to December, 2015).

In addition, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Government has also decided to strategically promote labour-intensive manufacturing and expand employment opportunities by promoting tourism and agro-based industries.

A new Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" has been announced in the Budget for 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation and an allocation of Rs. 1000 crores has been made. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2016-17.
Government has also implemented the National Career Service having a portal (www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers and provide other employment related services.

*****